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Irish history of even more recent times than these two well-known authorities on Ireland and its political institutions and political life and political leaders. Biography, memoirs, and letters have been similarly brought into service. Unfortunately Professor MacNeill has failed us as regards a bibliography, or a table of sources and authorities. But it is obvious from the text that in the preparation of the volume, few, if any, worth-while sources of Irish history have been overlooked. The plan that Professor MacNeill adopted has its advantages; also its disadvantages. One of the obvious disadvantages is that the plan adopted, despite the extreme care and great skill with which it has been worked out, gives the book the appearance of a compilation—an appearance which is made a little more striking by the author's method of inserting sources and authorities, printed in italics, in the text instead of at the foot of the page.

One of the most valuable contributions to Irish history embodied in the book—Professor MacNeill's address of 1911 on Irish parliamentary life—is in the notes or appendixes. It was an address delivered before the Eighty Club of London, when the members of the club, at the outset of a tour of Ireland, were assembled in a hall in the Bank of Ireland—in a room that until the Union in 1800 had been the chamber of the House of Lords of the Parliament of Ireland. The subject, the occasion, and the place of delivery, were all such as to appeal strongly to a student like Professor MacNeill, whose sympathies are so obviously with Ireland and its nationalism, and who is steeped in Irish history and in the traditions and lore of the Irish Parliament and of the city in which that parliament held its sessions from 1559 to the Union. The result of these auspicious conditions was an address of singular interest and of permanent value. It was an address so marked in character as to make one wish that there was a little more of Professor MacNeill, and a little less of quotation and extract, in the book to which this sketch of Irish Parliamentary Life is appended merely as note C. As it stands, Professor MacNeill's book is in a class by itself; for while within the last fifteen or twenty years there have been three or four additions to the history of the Irish Parliament, it is difficult to recall any work of modern times that is concerned with the constitution of Ireland in the days before the Union.

EDWARD PORRITT.

Economic Development of Modern Europe. By FREDERIC AUSTIN OGG, Associate Professor of Political Science in the University of Wisconsin. (New York: Macmillan Company. 1917. Pp. xvi, 657. \$2.50.)

"It is the purpose of this book to indicate the origins, and to explain with some fullness the nature and effects, of a number of the more important economic changes and achievements in Europe during the past three hundred years" (preface). The volume falls into four parts, of

which part II., Agriculture, Industry, and Trade since 1815 (pp. 117-340), is the most substantial and best lives up to the promise of the preface. At the same time, parts III. and IV., Population and Labor, and Socialism and Social Insurance (pp. 343-641), cover the portion of the field in which the author is best at home and of which he can speak with authority.

Part II. may be said to be complete in itself, as a sketch of the economic history of Europe through the period selected. And as narrative and description covering its period it should be a very serviceable text, facile, engaging, and well-proportioned on the whole. It is also, on the whole, conceived in a dispassionate, historical spirit; safe and sound, in a conservative sense, with no undue color of patriotic animosity or partizan intolerance. What the professed historians may have to say of its adequacy as a presentation of the history of this period, is another matter, of which the reviewer is not competent to speak. But something is due to be said of it as an endeavor "to indicate the origins, and to explain . . . the nature and effects of . . . economic changes and achievements".

It is sane, sound, impartial, and considerate, within the range of commonplace preconceptions that were current among politicians and publicists toward the close of the nineteenth century, and that still continue to guide the policies of conservative statesmen; and it sheds the light of those preconceptions, in a felicitous manner, on the received account of the origins and the nature and effect of economic changes. In any other sense it can scarcely be said to explain or account for any appreciable group or sequence of events or for any detail of the unstable situation which has arisen out of the historical era with which it is occupied. The work of presentation is well done, and there is no reason to question the accuracy of the information which it gives; nor is it necessary to find fault with its natural limitations, although it may not be easy to avoid a feeling of disappointment with an explanation which takes those things for granted that chiefly need to be explained. These preconceptions that have guided the economic statecraft of the European nations through the later period of the era have brought these nations into the unstable situation of the twentieth century and have brought on the climax of their working-out in the Great War; and it might fairly be expected that some effort should have been spent in accounting for their origins, nature, and effects, seeing that they are the major facts in the case; whereas they are tacitly taken for granted as premises inherent in the nature of things.

So, *e.g.*, that progressive growth of chauvinistic nationalism that characterizes the late-Victorian period, and after, is assumed as a matter of course, and its imperialistic politics as it runs throughout the European countries is accepted at the face value assigned it by its disingenuous spokesmen, as a striving after the common good. This was written

late in 1916, when the war brought on by the bankruptcy of these preconceptions had been running for something more than two years. So unreservedly is the author committed to these bankrupt preconceptions of reactionary statecraft, that he even finds himself at home in the "fair-trade" manoeuvres by which the gentlemen-investors of the United Kingdom have been seeking to safeguard their unearned incomes (pp. 270-277). So again, the policies and adventures of governments and politicians in colonial enterprise and trade expansion are taken, quite naïvely, not at their patent value as a conspiracy of gentlemen-concessionnaires and dynastic statesmen, but at their conventionally putative value as an enterprise for the common good—and all in the glaring light thrown on these bankrupt policies by the war which is the only common outcome to which they have visibly contributed. The historical explanation at this point as at most others does not go beyond the most unguarded *post hoc* of statistical census exhibits. In the same sense there is a painstaking and very intelligent narrative of the growing uneasiness of the working classes in these countries, and of the efforts which the workmen have put forth to better their lot in the losing game they have played under the same preconceptions, as well as of the measures taken by the governments to conciliate the workmen and reconcile them to the rules of the losing game; but it is, again, a description of events, not an explanation of their nature and incidence. The statistical upshot of it is exhibited, but there is nowhere even a tentative answer to the Why?—such as one looks for under the caption of explanation; nor is there anything like an analysis designed to cover the other question—What is likely to come of it all?

THORSTEIN VEBLEN.

The Great European Treaties of the Nineteenth Century. Edited by SIR AUGUSTUS OAKES, C.B., lately of the Foreign Office, and R. B. MOWAT, M.A., Fellow and Assistant Tutor of Corpus Christi College. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1918. Pp. xii, 403. 7 sh. 6 d.)

NOTHING could be more timely than the appearance of this volume. At the moment when the younger Andrassy is dissolving the Austro-German alliance, when Danes are demanding the effective application of Article V. of the treaty of Prague, and when the wrong done to France in 1871 is about to be righted, the authors have furnished in documentary form many of the facts most essential to a comprehension of the coming settlement of Europe. Historians will find the book of the greatest convenience for purposes of reference, and amateur students of international diplomacy (in other words the general reading public) will have at hand a compact *abrégé* of recent diplomatic relations. The book is simple in form, consisting, in addition to the opening chapter on the technical aspects of the conclusion of treaties, of eleven chapters,